
MINUTES EMS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

April 12, 2004

Wayne Township Fire Department Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

Members Present: Ron Parsons, Judy Hallam, Tina Butt, Steve Garrison, Jim Christopher, Steve Grammer, John Zartman, Suzan Henke, T.N. Petry MD.

Staff: Tony Pagano, Sam Steinhilber, Michael S. Garvey

Guests: Bill J. Hufford, Fayette Memorial Hospital; Rich Walker, CoAEMSP; Janice Hosmer, Margaret Mary Community Hospital; Michael Ross, Yellow Ambulance; Tony Hartman, Elkhart General Hospital; Leon Bell, Wishard Memorial Hospital/IU; Hugh Bain, St Vincent Hospital; Dan Burgei, Vincennes University; George Schulp, Superior Ambulance; Carla McCain, Dunn Memorial Hospital; Boyce Freese, Vincennes University; Allen Borck, Greater Lafayette Health Services, Ben Phelps, Ivy Tech State College Kokomo; Don Cates, Ivy Tech State College, Anderson; Jennifer Buchanan, Ivy Tech State College, Region 6; Jeff Benson, Delaware Co EMS; Mark Mangrum, Wishard Memorial Hospital; Sarah Elrod, Southwest Medical; Edwin Ford, Adams Co EMS; Matt Shady, Adams Co EMS; Joseph Paunicka, Methodist Hospitals Gary; Darrell Polley, Columbus Regional Hospital; Scott Gordan, Columbus Regional Hospital; Jennifer Hindman, Howard Regional Health System; Pam Taylor, EMS for Children; Donna McHenry, Porter Memorial Hospital.

In the absence of the Committee Chairman, Tony Pagano called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. All guests and members of the Committee were welcomed to this important meeting.

The agenda topic concerning paramedic training institution accreditation was moved to the top of the agenda due to our guest speaker. Tony introduced Rich Walker from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). Mr. Walker started off with distinguishing between CAAHEP and CoAEMSP. CAAHEP is the umbrella organization that accredits several different allied health professions. Mr. Walker stated that he came from respiratory therapy where he was an educator. CoAEMSP is the board that makes recommendations to CAAHEP concerning accreditation. Mr. Walker is the executive director of CoAEMSP.

CAAHEP accredits programs and not institutions. Institutions are accredited by organizations such as the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools or the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES). The programs accredited by CAAHEP are held in institutions accredited by the North Central

Association, ABHES or a similar organization. The Commission needs to be clear whether they want accreditation of a program or institution. (note) The EMS Education Agenda for the Future put out by NHTSA states that by the year 2010, there should be national emergency medical services certification accepted by all states. A national examination offered by a single independent agency only to students graduating from accredited programs should be in place.

Mr. Walker opened the floor to questions after a short introduction. One of the questions dealt with training programs that did not already have institutional accreditation. Mr. Walker said the requirement could be met by forming a consortium with an institution of higher learning. There are already 2 accredited hospital based programs in Indiana that have met the requirement by forming a consortium with Vincennes University.

Another issue that caused much discussion was the requirement that the program director have at least a bachelor's degree. Type of degree does not matter. Discussion followed on programs without degreed individuals. Most, but not all programs have degreed individuals as their program director. Mr. Walker said he would work with programs in meeting qualifications.

Individuals had questions on the timeline to get certified by the Commission imposed deadline of May 1, 2007. Tony said that even though the Commission has passed accreditation, it is not in rule language yet and could be massaged a little. Mr. Walker said there are no CAAHEP imposed timelines. The board meets twice a year, in February and August. To make the February meeting, applications should be submitted by July 1, the self-study done by Thanksgiving. The referee presents to the CoAEMSP board and then Mr. Walker presents to CAAHEP. The initial accreditation is good for 3 years; 2 years are then added and the accreditation is good for a total of five years. Mr. Walker stated he would be willing to come back to Indiana and do a workshop to help people in filling out the application and self-study. After the self-study is done an inspection is scheduled. The program pays for all expenses for the 2 individuals to do the inspection. Cost of accreditation was another issue brought up. Mr. Walker stated he did not deal with the cost issues. Tony Hartman from Elkhart General said the total cost of his accreditation was \$2000.00. Do programs need more manpower to put together the application and associated paperwork? Again, Mr. Hartman stated he is a one-man shop and did just fine.

After the discussion with Mr. Walker was completed the question was asked; is the Committee still going to recommend approval of accreditation? Many of the Committee members present stated that they felt very positive towards moving that way. Jim Christopher made a motion to table the discussion while asking the Commission to clarify whether they want program accreditation or institution accreditation. Steve Grammer seconded the motion and it passed. (note) At the June 2002 Commission meeting the Education Committee recommended and the Commission passed a motion to accept CAAHEP accreditation for all paramedic training institutions. Does this mean paramedic training programs?

The next agenda item is the primary instructor course. The subcommittee working on the 2002 DOT EMS Instructor Curriculum recommends adoption of the curriculum as it is written with the exception of the secondary instructor portion of the course. The subcommittee does not want to certify 2 levels of instructor. The new instructor curriculum is written more towards technical instruction. A new certification examination will need to be written to match the curriculum. Part of the new PI program will be the ability of the training institution to use subject matter experts to teach portions of the basic EMT course without a primary instructor being physically present in the classroom. The subject matter expert must be a part of the training institution staff. Ron Parsons moved to accept the subcommittee recommendations on the PI curriculum. Judy Hallam seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Tony Pagano reviewed information on the course additions that must be added by July 1. The Department of Justice has a train the trainer program for Emergency Response to Terrorism, Basic Concepts course. One of the courses has already been offered and more will be planned. Tony recommends the online course sponsored by Texas A & M and the Department of Justice. The program is free and the students get a certificate as proof of completion. Online address is www.teexwmdcampus.com . The HAZMAT course is available through the Fire Academy of PSTI. The driving laws that are to be added are on the SEMA EMS web site.

Ron Parsons asked if there is a non-rule policy for Intermediate transports like there is for basic and advanced EMTs. The answer was no. The intermediates must stick to the skills and medications listed in the curriculum.

Question was asked about the online ACLS and CPR courses that are now offered. An individual can get credit for the didactic portions of the course online but must go to a training site for skills. Judy Hallam said that the American Heart Association would be coming out with new guidelines within the next year.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.